



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/086,857	05/29/1998	DAVID T. FREDERICK	D-1093	8855
28995	7590	05/06/2004	EXAMINER	
RALPH E. JOCKE 231 SOUTH BROADWAY MEDINA, OH 44256			BUTLER, MICHAEL E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	
DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/086,857	FREDERICK ET AL.
	Examiner Michael Butler	Art Unit 3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-47 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \*    c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action, and apply to this and any subsequent Office Actions.

***Applicant Response to NonFinal Rejection***

2. Applicant filed an Appeal Brief opposing the rejections of claims 1-47 of the 11/5/03 Office Action. Applicant failed to file a corresponding Notice of Appeal to the 11/5/03 Office Action. A check with the Board of Appeals finds the Board interprets Rule 1.191(a) as treating the Notice or Appeal as a requisite element of the Appeal preceding the Brief rather than merely an optional time granting tool.

Accordingly, the response of 1/29/04 merely qualifies as a request for reconsideration of the 11/5/03 Office Action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 27-43 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(Re: cl 31) There are a plurality of “other locations” with no way of distinguishing which one is the other.

(Re: cl 36) It is not apparent how the door controls the access.

There is insufficient basis in the claim (Re: cl 27) for the limitation “the determination that the medical item is stored in the interior area”

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States
- (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. Claims 1, 3, 9, 27, 44, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lavigue et al. Lavigue et al.. discloses: (re: cl 1, 24) a computer in operative connection with a data store, data store includes user data representative of a plurality of authorized users (col. 10 L 27-61, the supervisor id is recognized , compared and the computer is operable contingent upon that comparison (col. 6 L 20-59); the interface includes an input device (col. 5 L 50-65); a refrigerator wherein a storage location for at least one medical item is located in an interior area of the refrigerator, the refrigerator including a door (col. 7 L 36-52); a lock module operatively attached to the refrigerator, the lock responsive to the computer (col. 11 L 39-43); the input device of the interface corresponding to the data representative of an authorized user stored in the data store (col. 10 L 27-39), the computer enabling user to input indicia corresponding to the medical item (col. 9 L 17-34), the computer operative to output a signal which changes the lock (col. 11 L 39-43;col. 8 L 59-62); computer is operative responsive to input of the item indicia to unlock the module (col. 8 L 24-30;col. 8 L 58-59).

(Re: cl 3) door is operative to generate an open signal responsive to the door opening

Art Unit: 3653

computer is operative to the open signal to change the lock module to the locked condition (col. 6 L 47-56); the computer operative responsive to the lock condition to change the condition of the lock (col. 8 L 60-62; Fig. 5, #113; Fig. 3, #118 & 139; (re: cl 25) door sensor, a latching device for selectively maintaining the lock module in the locked and unlocked conditions (col. 6 L 47-56; col. 7L 10-35);

(Re: cl 9) door opening sensor signaling data store (col. 6 L 47-56);

(Re: cl 27, 44) attaching a lock module to a refrigerator, placing a medical item in the interior or the refrigerator door (col. 7 L 36-52), storing data associated with the medical item, imputing medical item type, determining type of medical item in interior, generating signal determinative that a medical item is stored in the interior, enabling access to the interior of the computer (col. 7 L 36-52);

(Re: cl 31) placing medical items in plurality of storage locations, at least one in the interior and at least one exterior and storing data representative of the medical items stored (col. 9 L 17-34);

(Re: cl 32) the first item is placed in the storage location in the interior and a second item is placed in the other locations (col. 7 L 36-52),

(Re: cl 33) other location is in dispenser, inputting the type of item stored, determining that the second type of medical item is stored in dispenser, generating a second signal responsive to the determination second type is in dispenser (col. 6 L 20-59);

(Re: cl 36) opening refrigerator door, sensing door opened (col. 6 L 47-56; col. 7L 10-35);

(Re: cl 37, 42) storing authorized users, comparing whether authorized user as a contingency to opening refrigerator (col. 10 L 27-39),

Art Unit: 3653

(Re: cl 38,43) data stored representative of an authorized user (col. 10 L 27-39);

7. Claims 1, 4, 12-15, 21, 24, 27-29, 31-33, 39 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Colson, Jr. et al. '450. Colson, Jr. et al. '450 discloses: (Re: cl 1, 24) a computer in operative connection with a data store, data store includes user data representative of a plurality of authorized users (col. 5 L 17-29; Fig. 1, #21); the interface includes an input device (col. 5 L 17-29); a refrigerator wherein a storage location for at least one medical item is located in an interior area of the refrigerator, the refrigerator including a door (col. 3 L 1-16; col. 6 L 32-67; Fig. 1, #25); a lock module operatively attached to the refrigerator, the lock responsive to the computer (col. 2 L 50-55; col. 5 L 20-25; col. 6 L 48-67); the input device of the interface corresponding to the data representative of an authorized user stored in the data store, the computer enabling user to input indicia corresponding to the medical item (col. 5 L 20-40), the computer operative to output a signal which changes the lock (col. 5 L 20-25) the computer is operative responsive to input of the item indicia to unlock the module; computer is operative to the open signal to change the lock module to the locked condition (col. 6 L 47-56);

(Re: cl 4) lock has manual unlocking mechanism armed to unlock when the lock is enabled ( c4 L 65-c5L 15)

(Re: cl 12) lock module mounted in support of external surface with of refrigerator bolt (41) connecting external surface of door lock ( c4 L 65-c5L 15)

(Re: cl 13) bolt 41 attached to front surface and side door (c4 L 65-c5L 15)

(Re: cl 14) bolt attached to door through bracket (57)

(Re: cl 15) bolt supporting bracket connected to door by fasteners (the screws)

(Re: cl 21) lock module locks when door closed (c5L 6-15, spring biased).

Art Unit: 3653

(Re: cl 27, 44) attaching a lock module to a refrigerator, placing a medical item in the interior or the refrigerator, storing data associated with the medical item, imputing medical item type, determining type of medical item in interior, generating signal determinative that a medical item is stored in the interior, enabling access to the interior of the computer (col. 3 L 1-16; col. 6 L 32-67; Fig. 1, #25);

(Re: cl 28) attaching lock to exterior of a body and a bolt supporting bracket to an exterior of the door (attached via screws)

(Re: cl 29) attaching bolt supporting bracket to exterior with at least one fastener and covering fastener with a cover (c4 L 65-c5L 15)

(Re: cl 31) placing medical items in plurality of storage locations, at least one in the interior and at least one exterior and storing data representative of the medical items stored

(Re: cl 32) the items is placed in the storage location in the interior and a second item is placed in the other locations (col. 3 L 1-16; col. 6 L 32-67; Fig. 1, #25)

(Re: cl 33) other location is in dispenser, inputting the type of item stored, determining that the second type of medical item is stored in dispenser, generating a second signal responsive to the determination second type is in dispenser (col. 3 L 1-16; col. 6 L 32-67; Fig. 1, #25)

(Re: cl 39) manually actuating the unlocking mechanism and accessing the interior (c4 L 65-c5L 15).

8. Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pearson '232. Pearson '232 discloses: a computer in operative connection with a data store, data store includes user data representative of a plurality of authorized users (col. 4 L 60-col. 5 L 5 with col. 6 L 18-23); the interface includes an input device (col. 53 L 5-20); a lock in operative connection with the computer, the lock is responsive to the computer (col. 3 L 22-38); the input device of the

Art Unit: 3653

interface corresponding to the data representative of an authorized user stored in the data store, the computer enabling user to input indicia corresponding to the medical item (col. 4 L 33-49), the computer operative to output a signal which changes the lock (col. 5 L 1-8) the computer is operative responsive to input of the item indicia to unlock the module (col. 6 L 6-18); computer is operative to the open signal to change the lock module to the locked condition (col. 6 L 47-56).

9. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Higham '456. Higham '456 discloses: (base claim) a computer in operative connection with a data store, data store includes user data representative of a plurality of authorized users (col. 13 L 30-41); the interface includes an input device (col. 13 L 11-40; col. 10 L 46-53); a lock in operative connection with the computer, the lock is responsive to the computer (col. 10 L 11-29); the input device of the interface corresponding to the data representative of an authorized user stored in the data store, the computer enabling user to input indicia corresponding to the medical item (col. 13 L 11-30), the computer operative to output a signal which changes the lock (col. 13 L 11-30) the computer is operative responsive to input of the item indicia to unlock the module (col. 13 L 11-30); computer is operative to the open signal to change the lock module to the locked condition (col. 14 L 40-45);

(re:cl 46) the lock comprises a visual indicator (col. 11 L 41-65).

10. Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Colson, Jr. et al. '297. Colson, Jr. et al. '297 discloses: a computer in operative connection with a data store, data store includes user data representative of a plurality of authorized users, the interface includes an input device, a lock in operative connection with the computer, the lock is responsive to the computer, the input device of the interface corresponding to the data representative of an

Art Unit: 3653

authorized user stored in the data store, the computer enabling user to input indicia corresponding to the medical item, the computer operative to output a signal which changes the lock the computer is operative responsive to input of the item indicia to unlock the module, computer is operative to the open signal to change the lock module to the locked condition (col. 4 L 39-53).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 1-3 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavigue et al.. Lavigue et al. discloses the elements previously discussed and further discloses: (Re: cl 2) a visual indicator proximate the lock (col. 11 L 3-43) ; the lock has a solenoid (col. 7 L 24-26). It would have been obvious to place the visual indicator on the lock as a matter of design choice because proximate rather than precise mounting location of a visual indicator is sufficient to indicate to the user the identification of the location of the lock corresponds with the compartment(s) and the status of the lock corresponds with the compartment access commands from the computer. The examiner takes official notice that the use of permanent magnets in solenoids is well known. It would have been obvious to make the solenoid with a permanent magnet because such a construction averts the need for plural windings.

Art Unit: 3653

As per applicant's challenge of permanent magnet solenoids not being well known in the dispensing art, the examiner cites in rebuttal Nemoto (abstract), Keskin et al.(abstract), Tabata (abstract).

13. Claims 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higham et al. '456. Higham et al discloses the elements previously disclosed and further discloses: (re:cl 47) the lock comprises a door sensor, the door sensor is operative to generate an open signal responsive to opening the door (col. 11 L 23-41).

Higham et al '456 impliedly suggests the computer is operative responsive to the open signal to change the lock to the locked condition whenever the door is closed (col. 10 L 11-29; col. 13 L 44-59). As the processor of Higham et al '456 only permits one door open a time and the button opening embodiment necessitates a button being pressed before opening, it is suggested that all doors will be locked upon closure. It would have been obvious for the processor of Higham et al '456 to lock the door upon closure to avoid the confusion prone with multiple drawers open as suggested and taught by Higham et al '456.

14. Claims 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colson Jr., et al. '297. Colson Jr, et al. discloses the elements previously disclosed and further discloses: (re: cl 46) the lock comprises a visual indicator illuminating the region of the store medication item (col. 3 L 10-16). It would have been obvious for Colson Jr. et al. to modify the illumination to a visual indicator on released lock because such an indication can lead a user to a desired and open receptacle.

15. Claims 1, 3, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavigne et al. in view of Aten et al. as in paper number 8 as are newly added claims 45 and 47. Lavigne et al. discloses the elements previously disclosed and further discloses: the lock has a

Art Unit: 3653

solenoid (col. 7 L 24-26). It would have been obvious to make the refrigerated dispenser of Laviue et al. with a solenoid having a permanent magnet because a construction averts the need for plural windings as taught by Aten et al. (col. 9 L 1-30).

16. Claims 1-3 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colson, Jr. et al. '450 in view of Lavigne et al. Colson, Jr. et al. '450 discloses the elements previously disclosed and further discloses: a latching device for selectively maintaining the lock module in the locked and unlocked conditions (col. 5 L 6-16 ; col. 8 L 24-30; col. 8 L 58-59); visual indicators corresponding to each compartment which is unlocked by the locks (col. 7 L .35-46). Colson, Jr. et al. '450 does not disclose: a door sensor; door is operative to generate an open signal responsive to the door opening, the visual indicator is located on the lock. Lavigne et al. discloses a door sensor with the door operative to generate an open signal responsive to the door opening. It would have been obvious to substitute location of the visual indicator to the lock as a matter of design choice because proximate placement of a visual indicator is sufficient to indicate to the user the location of the compartment(s) and the status of the lock corresponds with the compartment access commands from the computer (col. 6 L 47-56; col. 7L 10-35). It would have been obvious to use a sensor to detect the opening of the door as a means of saving power and recording removal of the item as taught by Colson, Jr. et al. '450.

17. Claims 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blechl in view of Weinberger. Blechl discloses: (re cl 45) a computer in operative connection with a data store, data store includes user data representative of a plurality of authorized users (col. 4 L 20-38); the interface includes an input device (col. 4 L 39-50); a lock in operative connection with the computer, the lock is responsive to the computer (col. 4 L 39-50); the input device of the interface corresponding to the data representative of an authorized user stored in the data store,

Art Unit: 3653

the computer enabling user to input indicia corresponding to the medical item (col. 4 L 39-50), the computer operative to output a signal which changes the lock (col. 9 L 44-55) the computer is operative responsive to input of the item indicia to unlock the module (col. 9 L 36-55); computer is operative to the open signal to change the lock module to the locked condition (col. 4 L 39-55).

Weinberger discloses any claimed elements not explicitly taught by Blechl including:

(re:cl 46) the lock comprises a visual indicator (col. 7 L 13-34) ;

(re:cl 47) the lock comprises a door sensor, the door sensor is operative to generate an open signal responsive to opening the door, the computer is operative responsive to the open signal to change the lock to the locked condition whenever the door is closed (col. 13 L 20-30).

It would have been obvious for Blechl to include a visual indicator as a part of a lock module because a visual signal can direct the user to the correct door/drawer as taught by Weinberger. It would have been obvious for Blechl to have the computer to lock the door responsive to a sensor indicating door closure because locking the door can reduce unauthorized access as taught by Weinberger.

18. Claims 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colson, Jr. et al. '297 in view of Lavigne et al.. Colson, Jr. et al. '450 discloses the elements previously disclosed and further discloses: a latching device for selectively maintaining the lock module in the locked and unlocked conditions (col. 5 L 6-16 ; col. 8 L 24-30; col. 8 L 58-59); visual indicators corresponding to each compartment which is unlocked by the locks (col. 7 L .35-46). Colson, Jr. et al. '297 does not disclose: a door sensor; door is operative to generate an open signal responsive to the door opening, the visual indicator is located on the lock. Lavigne et al. discloses a door sensor with the door operative to generate an open signal responsive to the door

Art Unit: 3653

opening. It would have been obvious to move the visual indicator corresponding to the lock as a matter of design choice because placing the visual indicator proximate the source is sufficient to indicate to the user the location of the compartment(s) thereby reducing dispensing errors and the status of the lock as exemplified corresponds with the compartment access commands from the computer (col. 6 L 47-56; col. 7L 10-35). It would have been obvious to use a sensor to detect the opening of the door as a means of saving power and recording removal of the item as taught by Colson, Jr. et al. '297.

19. Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavigne et al. in view of Engleson et al. wherein Lavigne et al. discloses the elements previously discussed and Engleson et al. discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Lavigne et al. including:

(Re: cl 16) reading device for reading item indicia (90)

(Re: cl17) refrigerator includes machine readable indicia (c6 L 14-25)

(Re: cl18) report having machine readable indicia item indicia by reading machine readable indicia (c12 L 45-65)

(Re: cl19) printer for generating a report (c9 L 30-34; c6 L 14-25)

(Re: cl20) at least one machine readable indicia (c6 L 14-25)

(Re: cl 35) reading a bar code scanner (c6 L 14-25).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to use a reader device and indicia on a dispenser to automatically input what medication is being removed and from where items are being removed as taught by Engleson et al. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to generate a report for tracking patient care and optimize treatment and to generate machine readable indicia to easily identify the report as taught by Engleson et al.

Art Unit: 3653

20. Claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colson, Jr. et al. '450 in view of Iwamoto et al. wherein Colson, Jr. et al. '450 discloses the elements previously discussed and Iwamoto et al. discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Colson, Jr. et al. '450 including:

(Re: cl 4) lock has manual unlocking mechanism armed to unlock when the lock is enabled

(Re: cl 5) lock module has a movable lever (34), catch (33), pawl (32a)

(Re: cl 6) lever 4 pivots, and is engaged by a solenoid (c4 L 4-9)

(Re: cl 7) catch has tapered step on lever (33a)

(Re: cl 8) unlocking mechanism includes cylinder and projection for engaging lever (8)

(Re: cl 40) first mechanism engages lever on first side of pivot (c4 L 1-21).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Colson, Jr. et al. '450 to substitute a lock constructed with solenoid activated pivoting lever, catch with taper step, and pawl to positive release electrically activated of the solenoid triggering the latch release of the door as taught by Iwamoto et al..

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Colson, Jr. et al. '450 to include a cylinder as backup for electrical failure as taught by Iwamoto et al..

21. Claims 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colson, Jr. et al. '450 in view of Warren wherein Colson, Jr. et al. '450 discloses the elements previously discussed and Warren discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Colson, Jr. et al. '450 including:

(Re: cl 23) lock module includes a retrofit assembly (116).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Colson, Jr. et al. '450 to substitute its built in lock with a retrofit kit lock as retrofit locks can be placed on a unit after failure as taught by Warren.

Art Unit: 3653

22. Claims 9, 16-17, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colson, Jr. et al. in view of Holmes '467 wherein Colson, Jr. et al. '450 discloses the elements previously discussed and Holmes '467 discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Colson, Jr. et al. '450 including:

(Re: cl 9) door opening sensor signaling data store (c 8L12-15)  
(Re: cl 22) unlock condition has a timeout return to locked condition (c8 L25-30).  
(Re: cl 16) reading device for reading item indicia (c6 L19-25)  
(Re: cl 17) dispenser includes machine readable indicia (c6 L19-25)  
(Re: cl 20) at least one machine readable indicia (c6 L19-25).  
(Re: cl 34) labeling the dispenser with machine readable indicia, reading the indicia with a reading device (c6 L19-25)  
(Re: cl 35) reading a bar code scanner (c6 L19-25).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Colson, Jr. et al. '450 to use a reader device and indicia on dispenser to automatically input what medication is being removed and from where items are being removed as taught by Holmes '467.

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Colson, Jr. et al. '450 to have a lock release timeout to secure contents from an apparent subsequently unattended dispenser as taught by Holmes '467.

23. Claims 9, 16-17, 20, 22 and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavigne et al. in view of Holmes '467 wherein Lavigne et al. discloses the elements previously discussed and Holmes '467 discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Lavigne et al. including:

(Re: cl 9) door opening sensor signaling data store (c 8L12-15)  
(Re: cl 22, 42) unlock condition has a timeout return to locked condition (c8 L25-30)  
(Re: cl 16) reading device for reading item indicia (c6 L19-25)  
(Re: cl 17) dispenser includes machine readable indicia (c6 L19-25)  
(Re: cl 20) at least one machine readable indicia (c6 L19-25).  
(Re: cl 34) labeling the dispenser with machine readable indicia, reading the indicia with a reading device (c6 L19-25)  
(Re: cl 35) reading a bar code scanner (c6 L19-25).

Art Unit: 3653

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to use a reader device and indicia on dispenser to automatically input what medication is being removed and from where items are being removed as taught by Holmes '467. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to have a lock release timeout to secure contents from an apparent subsequently unattended dispenser as taught by Holmes '467.

24. Claims 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halvorson in view of Weinberger.

Halvorson discloses:

(re cl 45) a computer in operative connection with a data store, data store includes user data representative of a plurality of authorized users (col. 4 L 20-38; col. 2 lines 37-61); the interface includes an input device (20); the input device of the interface corresponding to the data representative of an authorized user stored in the data store, the computer enabling user to input indicia corresponding to the medical item (col. 3 line 47-column 4 line 32),

McDonald '243 discloses any claimed elements not explicitly taught by Halvorson including:

the computer operative to output a signal which changes the lock (40) the computer is operative responsive to input of the item indicia to unlock the module, computer is operative to the open signal to change the lock module (40) to the locked condition (col. 2 Lines 46-61).

It would have been obvious for Halvorson to have the computer to lock the door responsive to a sensor indicating door closure because locking the door can reduce unauthorized access as taught by McDonald '243.

Art Unit: 3653

25. Claims 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halverson in view of Weinberger. Halvorson discloses the elements previously discussed and further discloses:

(re cl 45) a computer in operative connection with a data store, data store includes user data representative of a plurality of authorized users (col. 4 L 20-38); the interface includes an input device (col. 4 L 39-50); the input device of the interface corresponding to the data representative of an authorized user stored in the data store, the computer enabling user to input indicia corresponding to the medical item (col. 4 L 39-50).

Weinberger discloses and elements not explicitly taught by Halvorson including:

a lock in operative connection with the computer, the lock is responsive to the computer (col. 4 L 39-50); the computer operative to output a signal which changes the lock (col. 9 L 44-55) the computer is operative responsive to input of the item indicia to unlock the module (col. 9 L 36-55); computer is operative to the open signal to change the lock module to the locked condition (col. 4 L 39-55).

(re:cl 46) the lock comprises a visual indicator (col. 7 L 13-34) ;

(re:cl 47) the lock comprises a door sensor, the door sensor is operative to generate an open signal responsive to opening the door, the computer is operative responsive to the open signal to change the lock to the locked condition whenever the door is closed (col. 13 L 20-30).

It would have been obvious for Halvorson to have the computer to lock the door responsive to a sensor indicating door closure because locking the door can reduce unauthorized access as taught by Weinberger. It would have been obvious for Halvorson to include a visual indicator as a part of a lock module because a visual signal can direct the user to the correct door/drawer as taught by Weinberger.

Art Unit: 3653

26. Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colson, Jr. et al. '450 in view of Gombrich et al. wherein Colson, Jr. et al. '450 discloses the elements previously discussed and Iwamoto et al. discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Colson, Jr. et al. '450 including:

(Re: cl 16) reading device for reading item indicia (c8 L 4-30)  
(Re: cl 17) refrigerator includes machine readable indicia (c8 L 4-30)  
(Re: cl 18) report having machine readable indicia item indicia by reading machine readable indicia (c8 L 4-30)  
(Re: cl 19) printer for generating a report (c8 L 4-30)  
(Re: cl 20) at least one machine readable indicia (c8 L 4-30)  
(Re: cl 34) labeling the refrigerator with machine readable indicia, reading the indicia with a reading device (c8 L 4-30)  
(Re: cl 35) reading a bar code scanner (c8 L 4-30).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Colson, Jr. et al. '450 to use a reader device and indicia on a dispenser to automatically input what medication is being removed and from where items are being removed as taught by Gombrich et al.

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Colson, Jr. et al. '450 to generate a report for tracking patient care and optimize treatment and to generate machine readable indicia to easily identify the report as taught by Gombrich et al.

27. Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavigne et al. in view of Engleson et al. wherein Lavigne et al. discloses the elements previously discussed and Iwamoto et al. discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Lavigne et al. including:

(Re: cl 16) reading device for reading item indicia 90  
(Re: cl 17) refrigerator includes machine readable indicia (c6 L 14-25)  
(Re: cl 18) report having machine readable indicia item indicia by reading machine readable indicia (c12 L 45-65)  
(Re: cl 19) printer for generating a report (c9 L 30-34; c6 L 14-25)  
(Re: cl 20) at least one machine readable indicia (c6 L 14-25)  
(Re: cl 34) labeling the refrigerator with machine readable indicia, reading the indicia with a reading device (c6 L 14-25).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to use a reader device and indicia on a dispenser to automatically input what medication is being removed and from where items are being removed as taught by Engleson et al. It would have been obvious

Art Unit: 3653

at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to generate a report for tracking patient care and optimize treatment and to generate machine readable indicia to easily identify the report as taught by Engleson et al.

28. Claims 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavigne et al. in view of Iwamoto et al. wherein Lavigne et al. discloses the elements previously discussed as well as

(Re: cl 11) bolt goes through door (c3 L 38-50)

and Iwamoto et al. discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Lavigne et al. including:

(Re: cl 10) lock module has a movable lever (34), catch (33), pawl (32a) and lever is engaged by a solenoid (c4 L 4-9)

(Re: cl 4) lock has manual unlocking mechanism armed to unlock when the lock is enabled (C3 L 24-28)

(Re: cl5) lock module has a movable lever (34), catch (33), pawl (32a)

(Re: cl6) lever 4 pivots, and is engaged by a solenoid (c4 L 4-9)

(Re: cl7) catch has tapered step on lever (33a)

(Re: cl8) unlocking mechanism includes cylinder and projection for engaging lever (8)

(Re: cl 21) lock module locks when door closed (c3 L 25-31).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to substitute a lock constructed with solenoid activated pivoting lever, catch with taper step, and pawl to positive release electrically activated of the solenoid triggering the latch release of the door as taught by Iwamoto et al..

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to lock the door upon closer to secure contents as taught by Iwamoto et al..

29. Claims 12-15 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavigne et al. in view of Genest et al. wherein Lavigne et al. discloses the elements previously discussed and Genest et al. discloses any elements not explicitly taught by Lavigne et al. including:

Art Unit: 3653

(Re: cl 23) lock module includes a retrofit assembly (abstract-unitary self contained

(Re: cl 12) lock module mounted in support of external surface with bolt connecting external surface of door with lock (c9 L 22-30)

(Re: cl 13) bolt attached to front surface and side door (c10 L 48-69)

(Re: cl 14) bolt attached to door through bracket (c10 L 48-69 )

(Re: cl 15) bolt supporting bracket connected to door by fasteners (c10 L 48-69)

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to substitute its built in lock with a retrofit kit lock as retrofit locks can be placed on a unit after failure as taught by Genest et al.. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Lavigne et al. to operationally attach the bolt to the front door as external mounting arrangement is easy to mount and does not reduce the amount of interior storage space consumed as taught by Genest et al..

#### ***Response to Arguments***

30. The applicant's arguments have been carefully considered by the examiner but are insufficient in overcoming the rejections in view of the prior art.

The applicant attempts to rely upon a CIP priority to bring the priority date of previously rejected claim 24 and newly added claim 45 of the instant application to less than one year subsequent the publication date of the applied references. However the applicant is entitled to the priority date of a parent of a CIP only with respect to matter present in the parent application. As the refrigeration elements were not found in the parent of this CIP application, applicant is not entitled to benefit of the priority date of the parent application on those claims having the cooling unit. As such the 102(b) reference date status of the cited art has not been overcome.

Further, if applicant had been able to and had elected to identify that his claimed subject matter had a priority date which would shift the reference to a 102(e) status, the applicant would

Art Unit: 3653

need swear behind the priority date of the reference. The applicant has merely attempted to swear behind the 1994 filing date of the Colson, Jr. et al. '450 reference rather than the 1993 priority date of Colson, Jr. et al.'s parent application, Colson, Jr. et al. '297. Each claim has its own independent invention date, and a subsequently invented dependent claim does not inherit its base claim's invention date nor does it inherit its base claims chain of subject matter to an earlier application if that matter was not present in the earlier applications in the chain or priority.

As applicant added the material of claim 24 to his chain in the instant application, claim 24 is not entitled to an earlier priority date than the filing date of the instant application.

Art Unit: 3653

***Conclusion***

31. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

32. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

33. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exmr. Michael E. Butler whose telephone number is (703) 308-8344.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh, can be reached on (703) 306-4173. The fax number for the Group is (703) 305-7687.

*Michael E. Butler*

Michael E. Butler  
Examiner

  
DONALD R. WALSH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600